U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
REGION NINE
CALIFORNIA DIVISION
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March 11, 1997

IN REPLY REFER TO
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Mr. James W. van Loben Sels, Director
CALTRANS, 1120 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Branch, Room 3500
             for Garland Hagen

Dear Mr. van Loben Sels:

SUBJECT: KCOG 1996/97 TO 1998/99 TIP AMENDMENT NO. 1

We have completed our review of the Kern Council of Government's (KCOG) Amendment No. 1 to its 1996/97 through 1998/99 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that was submitted with your letter dated February 28, 1997. KCOG's Amendment No. 1 adds preliminary engineering and revises programmed years for several projects in the state highway element. This amendment also revises the projects listed in the lump-sum safety, CMAQ, regional surface transportation, and TEA programs of the local highway element.

We accept this Amendment in accordance with 23 CFR 450 and find that this KCOG TIP amendment was developed based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process in accordance with 23 USC 134 and Section 5303 of the Federal Transit Act (49 USC 53). The changes made to the program by this amendment are exempt from the requirement that a conformity determination be performed [40 CFR §51.460 and §93.134].

This finding has been coordinated with the Regional office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Region Nine office of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding on single mode TIP Amendments dated March 8, 1996.

This letter also constitutes approval, and inclusion of KCOG's TIP Amendment No. 1 into California's 1996/97 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

Sincerely,

For
David H. Densmore
Division Administrator